Distribution of sugar to middle class family

*2907. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to provide sugar on ration cards to those middle class families who fall in the range of income tax ceiling;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Consequent upon reduction in the levy obligation of domestic sugar producers to 15% with effect from 1.2.2001, the Government has restricted the supply of sugar under the Public Distribution System to Below Poverty Line families except in North-Eastern States/Hill States/Island territories, where the earlier arrangement would continue.

Wheat/rice to pilgrims of Kumbha Mela at BPL price

2908. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice allocated and released to the U.P. Government for sale to the pilgrims of the recent Kumbha Mela at Below Poverty Line (BPL) prices; and

(b) whether there was any mechanism set up to monitor that

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.